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5 February 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Monthly Warning Assessments ☐

25X1

1. ☐ 23 January Monthly Warning Assessment hits three points that seem to me are worthy of getting across to our primary consumers.

a. The first is the second paragraph under paragraph 2 where ☐ looks at the possibility of a prolonged Lebanon-type civil war in Iran. We have never discussed this in anything we have sent forward. Perhaps Bob Ames and others could add to this what the other alternatives are at this time and we could have a piece of not more than three paragraphs saying here are the three primary solutions that we see looming on the near-term horizon in Iran.

b. Paragraph 4 goes back and recapitulates that the Romanians apparently got away with their defiance of the Soviets. I am sure the President is aware of the Romanian defiance, though we might summarize that very succinctly and then just point out that X weeks have gone by and nothing has appeared. We could add the cautionary note that we may be lagging the problem and comment that we are going to be on the lookout here. ☐

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c. While we have talked a lot about the Polish economy to the President from time to time, I think this current report that things look bad, and particularly for the consumer as opposed to the overall economic picture which we have been stressing to the President, although we would have to acknowledge that there isn't unanimity behind this, is still worth mentioning. ☐

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3. Looking at [REDACTED] fine memo of 22 January, I would say that we ought to have a very brief item somewhere about [REDACTED] position. [REDACTED]

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I also think a slightly briefer version of the item on Colombia would be worthwhile in that it brings attention to a country we seldom mention, points up a potential problem involving U.S. officials, and concerns human rights.

Finally, I would say we want to be sure that we look ahead and make some comments on the installation of the new president in Venezuela shortly before he takes office and what impact we see that change having in Venezuela, on Nicaragua, etc. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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5. On Bob Ames' fine memo I am impressed that we need a fairly thoughtful trends piece on [REDACTED] I think I have mentioned separately that [REDACTED] was particularly concerned about corruption in [REDACTED] the military leaders are more concerned with what they can rake off the top and put into fine living than they are with getting down into the desert with their troops.

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I am particularly impressed with the importance of an interpretive trends piece on Syria/Iraq with a list of the possible implications this could have for the Middle East.

[REDACTED]

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I am also impressed by the short blurb on the Yemens. I wonder [REDACTED]


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6. After reading all of these and benefiting by them, I am somewhat reluctant at my previous concurrence in the idea of moving to quarterly rather than monthly! I would really like to move out on these items.


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It seems to me they precisely fill a gap that exists in our political reporting between the PDB and the longer range studies and NIEs. 

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STANSFIELD TURNER

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cc: NIO/USSR
NIO/LA
NIO/WE
NIO/NESA



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